

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of searching for contents information presented by a plurality of information sites over a network based on a query sent from a client terminal to a searching server through the network, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

prompting the client terminal to input a query;

enabling the client terminal to transmit the query to the searching server through the network, the query containing an item keyword indicating an item as a target of searching and an action keyword indicating an action to be made on the item;

operating the searching server according to the query to search for one or more of the information sites having contents information matching the query, and to send back directory information indicative of locations of the searched information sites to the client terminal;

operating the client terminal according to the directory information for accessing the searched information sites; and

registering directory information of a new information site in the searching server together with an item keyword and an action keyword matching contents information presented by the new information site in response to a request for registration of the new information site from a client terminal.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A searching server apparatus used in a system of searching for contents information presented by a plurality of information sites over a network based on queries sent from client terminals through the network, the searching server apparatus comprising:

- a prompting section that operates when a client terminal accesses the searching server for prompting the client terminal to input a query;

- a receiving section that receives the inputted query from the client terminal through the network, the inputted query containing an item keyword indicating an item as a target of searching and an action keyword indicating an action to be made on the item;

- an operating section that operates according to the received query to search for one or more information sites having contents information matching the received query;

- a transmitting section that sends back directory information indicative of locations of the searched information sites to the client terminal; and

- a registering section, that responds to a request for registration of a new information site from a client terminal, for registering directory information of the new information site together with an item keyword and an action keyword matching the contents information presented by the new information site.

Claim 3 (original): The searching server apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the prompting section provides a list of various item keywords and action keywords with the client terminal such that the user can select a set of an item keyword and an action keyword from the list to formulate the query.

Claim 4 (original): The searching server apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a database that stores the directory information of the information sites spread over the network together with the item keywords and the action keywords matching the contents information presented by the respective information sites.

Claim 5 (original): The searching server apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the operating section can search for one or more information sites with reference to the database according to the query.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously presented): The searching server apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the registering section responds to the request for registration of the new information site from the client terminal, for providing a list of various item keywords and action keywords with the client terminal such that the user can select a set of an item keyword and an action keyword from the list in matching with the contents information presented by the new information site.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A client terminal apparatus in a system of searching for contents information presented by a plurality of information sites over a network based on a query sent to a searching server through the network, the client terminal apparatus comprising:

- an accessing section that accesses the searching server for establishing communication with the searching server through the network;

- an input section that transmits the query to the searching server through the network, the query containing an item keyword indicating an item as a target of searching and an action keyword indicating an action to be made on the item;

- an output section that receives directory information indicative of locations of the searched information sites from the searching server through the network; and

- an operating section that operates according to the directory information for accessing the searched information sites;

wherein the input section can send a request for registration of a new information site to the searching server, such that the searching server registers directory information of the new information site together with an item keyword and an action keyword matching the contents information presented by the new information site.

Claim 9 (original): The client terminal apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the input section is provided with a list of various item keywords and action keywords from the searching server such that the user can select a set of an item keyword and an action keyword from the list to formulate the query.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (previously presented): The client terminal apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the input section is provided with a list of various item keywords and action keywords from the searching server, such that the user can select a set of an item keyword and an action keyword from the list in matching with the contents information presented by the new information site.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A storage medium for storing an index table used by a searching server for searching contents information presented by a plurality of information sites over a network based on a query sent from a client terminal through the network, the query containing an item keyword indicating an item as a target of searching and an action keyword indicating an action to be made on the item,

wherein the index table memorizes a correspondence between information sites spread over the network and subject items involved in the contents information of the information sites and related actions mentioned in the contents information, such that the searching server can search for one or more information sites based on the query with reference to the index table; and

wherein the index table memorizes a correspondence between a registered directory information of a new information site and an item keyword and an action keyword matching contents information presented by the new information site in response to a request for registration of the new information site from a client terminal to the searching server.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A computer program embedded in a computer readable medium and executable by a searching server for searching contents information presented by a plurality of information sites over a network based on a query sent from a client terminal through the network, the computer program comprising the steps of:

- prompting the client terminal to input a query when the client terminal accesses the searching server;

- receiving the inputted query from the client terminal through the network, the inputted query containing an item keyword indicating an item as a target of searching and an action keyword indicating an action to be made on the item;

- searching for one or more information sites having contents information matching the received query;

- sending back directory information indicative of locations of the searched information sites to the client terminal; and

- registering directory information of a new information site together with an item keyword and an action keyword matching the contents information presented by the new information site in response to a request for registration of the new information site from a client terminal.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A computer program embedded in a computer readable medium and executable by a client terminal for enabling a searching server to search contents information presented by a plurality of information sites over a network based on a query sent to the searching server through the network, the computer program comprising the steps of:

accessing the searching server for establishing communication with the searching server through the network;

transmitting the query to the searching server through the network, the query containing an item keyword indicating an item as a target of searching and an action keyword indicating an action to be made on the item;

receiving directory information indicative of locations of the searched information sites from the searching server through the network;

accessing the searched information sites according to the directory information; and

sending a request for registration of a new information site to the searching server, such that the searching server registers directory information of the new information site together with an item keyword and an action keyword matching the contents information presented by the new information site.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the computer-implemented step of registering information indicating another action corresponding to the action indicated by the registered action keyword.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The searching server apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the registering section registers information indicating another action corresponding to the action indicated by the registered action keyword.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The client terminal apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the searching server registers information indicating another action corresponding to the action indicated by the registered action keyword.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The storage medium of claim 12 wherein the index table memorizes a correspondence between information indicating another action and the action indicated by the registered action keyword.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The computer program of claim 13 further comprising the step of registering information indicating another action corresponding to the action indicated by the registered action keyword.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The computer program of claim 14 wherein the searching server registers information indicating another action corresponding to the action indicated by the registered action keyword.